

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

REC'D 18 AUG 2005

PCT

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

6/10

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/BE2005/000042

International filing date (day/month/year)
29.03.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
26.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B41F17/00

Applicant
DE VOLDER, Laurent

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Curt, D

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4383



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/BE2005/000042

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/BE2005/000042

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	12-17,19,20
	No: Claims	1-11,18
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-20
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: WO 92/05960 A (PRINTING INTERNATIONAL NAAMLOZE
VENNOOTSCHAP) 16 April 1992 (1992-04-16)
D2: US-A-4 803 922 (DENNESEN ET AL) 14 February 1989 (1989-02-14)
D3: US-A-5 119 724 (NG ET AL) 9 June 1992 (1992-06-09)
D4: EP-A-0 190 846 (DEVCO LIMITED; GEBRUDER NETZSCH
MASCHINENFABRIK GMBH & CO; ERICH NETZS) 13 August 1986 (1986-08-
13)

1. The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claims 1, 11 and 12 are not clear.
These claims are written in vague and indefinite terms (e.g. "in particular for confectionery, sugared almonds, chocolates and pharmaceutical tablets" in claim 1 and 11, "more particularly by means of a device according to one of the preceding claims" in claim 12) and as such leave the reader in doubt for the determination of the subject-matter of the invention. These terms cannot be considered as defining or reducing the scope of the invention.
2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
The document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a device (see for instance column 1, lines 10-11) for printing products comprising
-one pad (170) with a primary guide (174) provided for the main movement of the pad
-one secondary guide (177) provided as a buffer element for buffering the differences in effective deposit depth between the individual products to be printed.
2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 11 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
The document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this

document) a method for printing products with significant variations between them by means of a pad (170) , wherein printing material is applied on a cliché (154) according to a determined pattern, said method comprising the following steps:

- the pad (170) and the cliché (154) are brought in mutual contact () from a rest position by means of a primary guide, wherein the printing material is taken up by the pad of the cliché (see for instance on column 1, lines 57-59),
- and in that when taking up said printing material, the additional secondary guide buffers the contact between the pad and the cliché (implicit effect of the spring 177) ,
- after which the pad is moved in a deposit position (see for instance in column 1, lines 59-61), wherein the image taken up by the pad is deposited on the product to be printed
- wherein said secondary guide elements buffer the contact between the pad and the products to be printed and after which said pad is moved back to its rest position.

3. Furthermore, the subject-matter of claims 1 and 11 does not seems new in view of document D1 and D3.
4. Dependent claims 2-10 and 12-20 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty or inventive step, see in particular documents D1 to D4 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.
